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Go for gold

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School girls' soccer team faced off against Brock High School on May 7, coming out on top with a 7-0 win. /TIM YANO staff photographer

NDP brings Minden ER closure to the table

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

The Minden Emergency Room closure has once again ruffled feathers at a provincial level.

As the official opposition, the NDP caucus put forward a motion asking the Conservative government to fund a number of hospital projects, including the re-opening of the Minden ER when they met on May 12.

"Today, we are giving the Premier the opportunity to say yes to a solution that would connect communities to care, create good union jobs, and strengthen the future of our province," said NDP leader Marit Stiles. "At a time when our province is facing unprecedented economic uncertainty, no community should be left with closed emergency rooms, urgent cares, and delayed hospital projects."

"We've seen a lot of hospital closures," echoed NDP Robin Lennox, who is an MPP for Hamilton Centre, and a former resident of Minden Hills. "This seems like low hanging fruit to increase funding for hospital infrastructure."

see CONSERVATIVES page 2

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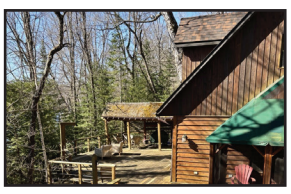
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Minden, Lutterworth water systems get highest ratings

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

Regular testing shows the water quality in the Minden Hills and the Lutterworth Pines systems is top-notch.

There are three reporting requirements that speak to Ontario water quality. They are adverse water test results and water quality incidents, summaries of the quantity of raw and treated water, and annual reports that detail treated water's quality.

All that information is compiled by the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) for the Minden and the Lutterworth Pines drinking water systems.

Natalie Baker, business development manager at the OCWA, said both systems are inspected annually by the provincial Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks.

She said during Minden Hills township council's May 8 meeting that the inspection summary outlines all aspects of a multibarrier approach. The ministry focuses on source water protection, treatment, distribution, monitoring, and management.

Both the Minden and Lutterworth Pines systems earned a rating of 100 per cent last year. OCWA and the township had 16 inspections over the last eight years. Fourteen of those garnered 100 per cent ratings.

"With only two (inspection ratings) falling below, but still receiving a rating over 96 per cent," Baker said.

The annual reports move from the quantity of water that goes through the systems to the quality of that water in the systems.

Baker said maximum acceptable concentration (MAC) for each parameter being tested is paramount in quality reports.

"Not only do we have to report any sample that would come over the maximum acceptable concentration, we also have to list it if it has reached the half-way mark," she said.

Those parameters include summaries of organic and inorganic components, microbiological testing, and operational testing.

She said the Minden municipal water supply doesn't require additional testing above the usual demands. However, additional samples are taken from the Lutterworth Pines system to gauge the MAC for uranium there.

Local operations teams make sure to change out uranium filters before the halfway MAC mark, she said.

"Both Lutterworth Pines and Minden drinking water systems had no exceedances over the maximum acceptable concentrations listed for inorganic and organic parameters in 2024," she said. "And we actually didn't have any that came over that half-MAC as well."

> "Both Lutterworth Pines and Minden drinking water systems had no exceedances over the maximum acceptable concentrations
>
> — NATALIE BAKER, OCWA

The agency every year provides a six-year major maintenance and capital expenditure list. That list prioritizes projects to meet financial requirements while adhering to compliance requirements.

Jeremy Manning, OCWA's operations manager, provided council with a list of capital projects to be undertaken at the local system this year. Many of those jobs are expected to be completed in the fall or before the end of the year.

Interestingly, among the listed objectives, is a proposed Minden Hills water rate study.

"We expect that work to be done by the end of July," Manning said of the rate study.

Well-cleaning projects were included among the capital projects. Mayor Bob Carter asked if there will be any change to the water quality as wells are cleaned.

"Both wells have a backup well," Manning said. "So what we do is take one well offline. They pull the pump and then put a camera, video inspect it and clean the well."

He said the water is then sampled and when the results are available the well can be put back into service. The same is then done for the second well.

The whole process usually takes about a week to complete, he said.

There are four wells in total, two at each of the Minden and the Lutterworth Pines systems.

Conservatives shut down Minden ER talk

from page 1

Lennox grew up in Minden - attending both Archie Stouffer Elementary School and Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. She moved to Hamilton to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor, and has called it home ever since. Now a practicing family physician, Lennox took to the political stage when she saw first-hand the impacts Conservative decisions have made on the medical system across Ontario. She is a newly elected Member of Provincial Parliament, but holds Minden near and dear while her party puts forward motions for debate.

"There are opportunities to increase that funding, and reopen some of the doors that have been closed," said Lennox. It wasn't just Minden that the NDP put on the table; in total, 18 other health facilities across the province were identified as needing support due to budget cuts, closures, expansions, and renovations.

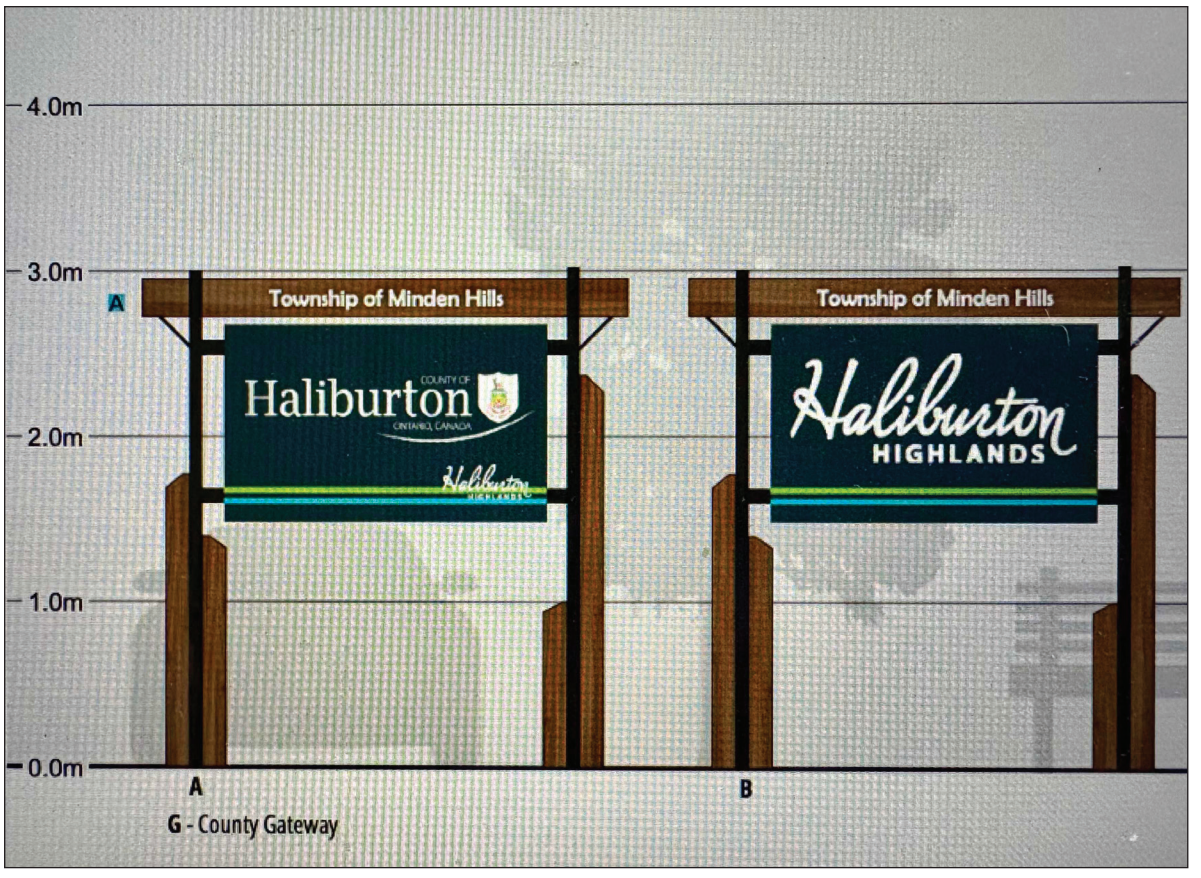
"In the opinion of the House, the Government must designate critical hospital infrastructure as nation-building projects and fund them in the 2025 Budget," said the NDP motion at Queen's Park.

While the Liberals followed suit and backed up the NDP to prioritize funding to healthcare, the Conservatives shut it down. It was noted that the MPP for Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes, Conservative Laurie Scott, was not present at the time of the vote, but her fellow Conservative caucus members who were present all voted against the motion. "We thought this would be a good opportunity for unanimous support," said Lennox. "But the Conservatives claimed that the investments had already been made in healthcare. But their words and votes are not quite adding up."

Despite the motion not being approved, Lennox is adamant about keeping the topic on the table. "We had a chance to debate it, and talked about our reasons for support," she said. "It would make our province stronger when our people are healthier, and we know that when we invest in the healthcare system, those investments pay for themselves."

Wayfinding project pointed in right direction

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor



A rendering of the potential signs presented by consulating firm pl.ural to Minden Council on May 8. Council members opted for the wooden frame style, referred to as 'Timber'. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

An ongoing initiative to develop wayfinding signage across the county came to fruition in the form of a presentation to Minden council on May 8. Scott Ovell, the director of economic development for the county came to the table, alongside Sean Kelly of pl.ural, a professional landscape architecture, planning, and design firm.

The process for consistent signage to span across the county has been in the works for a few years, and Ovell shared it would be another three to six years to follow through with implementation. "It's a costly undertaking," said Ovell, noting that Minden Hills was the first stop on his journey to presenting to each lower-tiered council. "Our plan is to meet with all four member municipalities, gather feedback, and in a perfect world, get a consensus on one sign design, and present that to county council for adoption."

With the majority of the cost for the cross-county signage coming from the newly implemented municipal accommodation tax, Ovell recognized that raising those funds could take some time.

That being said, if county council gives the green light to move forward with the project, he noted that there could be provincial and federal grants available to offset the projected cost of $500,000 to $650,000 for the signs across the county.

The project has been in the works since fall of 2023. Kelly opened up his presentation on their findings around signage, which had been collected via online surveys and stakeholder interviews. "What a municipality or township would believe is a destination versus what other people think can sometimes be a little bit of a chit chat requirement," he said. "This is a strategy document. It will reinforce a sense of place, the identity, the interconnections."

Kelly outlined that his team focused on gateways into each community, noting those were key locations for wayfinding signage. They had identified three major gateways into the Minden Hills area. Some of the issues that arose during their conversations with locals around wayfinding included talk around shared jurisdictions and boundaries, as well as potential conflicts with the MTO.

The presentation then dove into the sign styles. "Aesthetic is a hard thing to play with," said Kelly, noting that the firm wanted to highlight the natural look of the Haliburton Highlands through the signage displayed.

The three themes presented were: Timber, Natural Forest, and My Haliburton Forest. Each theme varied slightly, with predominant undertones of earthy wood, greens, and blues. Through an additional survey which warranted 56 respondents, 59 per cent leaned towards the Timber theme, with 25 per cent liking Natural Forest, and 16 per cent opting for My Haliburton Forest.

In total, pl.ural suggested that Minden Hills would require 46 different signs across the region, including Lochlin, Irondale, and Ingoldsby. The signs would not showcase specific businesses, but rather direct visitors to significant locations in each area.

Mayor Bob Carter sought clarification from Ovell about what the presentation was looking for from council. "Really today we are looking for if there's a sign design concept that you feel strongly about," said Ovell, "that would be really helpful."

Councillor Pam Sayne gave her nod of approval that the signage project had come this far, but noted that the idea stemmed from Dysart's Cultural Resources committee - a group that does not exist in Minden Hills. She also noted that the onus of decorative and wayfinding signage often falls on a community's BIA, another absent organization in Minden. "I think it's really important that we find a way to make sure Minden communities' voices are part of this too," she said.

Minden Council nodded in agreement when Mayor Carter put forward the motion to suggest County Council progress with the Timber theme, all liking the style and appearance of the first rustic theme. Ovell noted that he appreciated the feedback, but reminded council that the project will take some time, namely to raise the funds through the municipal accommodation tax.

"Wayfinding is important for a destination from an economic development standpoint," he said. "But sometimes, given the list of priorities we have, it probably would not be at the top of a list from a county council or township council standpoint. I totally respect that."

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

May 29 – Regular Council Meeting
June 12 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

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CELEBRATE CANADA DAY WITH MINDEN HILLS

We are currently looking for vendors to showcase their products, cause, or service for our Canada Day event. Deadline for submission is May 31st, 2025. To reserve your spot please email our Recreation Coordinator, Megan Locker, at mlocker@mindenhills.ca.

HOLIDAY HOURS

The following Township of Minden Hills offices will be closed on Monday, May 19, 2025, to celebrate Victoria Day and will resume regular hours on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.
- Municipal Administration Office (7 Milne St.)
- Fire Hall Administration Office (12418 Hwy. 35)
- SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena (55 Parkside St.)
- Minden Hills Cultural Centre (176 Bobcaygeon Rd.)

*All waste disposal sites will be open and will operate on Sunday hours.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- Mountain Lake at a Glance, an exhibit by Gord Peteran - opening reception Saturday, May 17 from 1:00 – 3:00pm. The Artist talk starts at 1:30 pm including psychoanalyst Dr. Dorenbaum whose essay explores the psychological effects of deep dedication to a single place. Admission is by donation.
- The season opening of the Minden Hills Museum & Heritage Village and Nature's Place takes place on Saturday, May 17 from 10:00am - 4:00pm. See separate ad for details.
- Cold Journey (1975) – Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Thursday, May 15 at 1:00 PM. Directed by Martin Defalco, the film is about Indigenous youth in 1970s Canada. Admission is free. The film is presented in partnership with the HCPL – Minden Branch and the National Film Board.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) DAY

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 24, 2025, from 8:00AM - 12:00 PM at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. Please ensure you have your valid waste disposal card. For full details and a list of accepted items, please visit mindenhills.ca/hazardouswaste

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Minden Pride Town Hall gathers community thoughts

by THOMAS SMITH
Times Staff

On May 10, Minden Pride met at the Pinestone in Haliburton for a town hall meeting. The second of its kind and the first to occur in-person, around 100 Minden Pride supporters shuffled into a conference room to discuss the future of Minden Pride.

With business owners, community partners, and supportive residents filling the room, former Minden Pride chair Allan Guinan opened the event by discussing Minden Pride's humble beginnings. Co-founder Bob Baynton Smith was seated in the front row of the audience.

"Their goal was to increase the invisibility of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community," said Guinan, "by associating and celebrating the community and making us a vibrant part of Haliburton, we were sending an important message of diversity and inclusivity."

Guinan went on to say that he is most proud about Minden Pride's impact on the youth in the community at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. This year will mark the third celebrated Pride Week at the local school.

"In my mind it signals a huge step in the changing conversation in Haliburton around being queer," said Guinan.

Last year around 15 events were held throughout the county associated with Minden Pride, attracting nearly 1,000 visitors alone.

"Minden Pride is recognized as the largest cultural festival in the county," said Guinan.

"Today we are going to look forward towards the next ten years and I want to encourage all of you to be as brave and fearless in building our future as those original founders who started Minden Pride."

Minden Pride founder Bob Baynton-Smith accepts a certificate of appreciation from Allan Guinan. /THOMAS SMITH staff

The event began with invited guests to think on events, outreach, and advocacy associated with Minden Pride. Guests were invited to use sticky notes to jot down an idea that they feel is important for Pride and stick it on a poster on the wall that they felt was the most important of the three.

All of them received an even split of the votes.

The most common topic mentioned on the event's poster was Minden Pride's Summer Festival, inspiring 2SLGBTQIA+ youth in the county was mentioned the most on the outreach poster, and engagement with local businesses was mentioned the most on the advocacy poster.

Afterwards, every table was given a topic to discuss how Minden Pride can reach their objectives with the limited resources they have.

Some of the topics assigned to the tables included Minden Pride's week-long summer festival, empowering youth, social events, engaging local businesses, partnering with local businesses with DEI training and supporting them, diversity equity, how to keep businesses engaged, community presence, and communication ideas.

Topics presented from the tables, with varying levels of feasibility included:

- Collaborating with Aging Together as Community
- In-home salon events at members' homes
- Partnership with Lions, Rotary, and other community groups
- Creating a publicly available calendar circulated by Minden Pride
- Utilizing social media sites such as Blue Sky
- Pay-what-you-can events
- Donation kiosks that can have cards tapped for donations
- Signage put out in advance similar to Studio Tour
- The need for transportation to the event to attract young people
- There is the concern that Minden Pride is for the elderly and youth are not interested in the event
- Dyeing the river a fun colour
- Incorporating a late bus program with Minden Pride events
- Creating signage available to local businesses to display support of 2SLGBTQIA+
- Concerns over anonymity of those not wanting to come out to the public
- Engaging the Chamber of Commerce and organizations such as the BIA in Haliburton
- People's lack of awareness of events
- Reaching out to Trillium Lakelands District School Board to discuss youth engagement
- Potential opportunity for students to receive community hours

After all of the tables presented, the Minden Pride committee thanked the participants for being open and sharing their ideas. No concrete plans were made at the town hall meeting. The Minden Pride committee assured that every topic will be discussed as a committee and they will let everyone know about what they will be working on.

Minden Pride is of great importance to the local economy and community at large. With their events getting bigger and better every year, they are in need of more volunteers.

"We are always looking for volunteers to get involved with the social, outreach and advocacy work our committee is involved in throughout the county," said Guinan. "Through our work we promote and celebrate the diverse and inclusive nature of our community and the importance of accepting everyone for who they are. Getting involved demonstrates your support for these goals."

For those wanting to get involved with Minden Pride, please visit mindenpride.ca.

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Roadside Brush Collection Program

The County of Haliburton and its member Municipalities are implementing a Roadside Brush Collection Program to help residents deal with impacts of the recent ice storm.

Roadside brush collection will begin Monday, May 12th in the areas most heavily affected by the storm, *this includes the Township of Minden Hills, and designated areas of the Municipality of Highlands East, and the Municipality of Dysart et al..* The program will run until Friday, June 13th.

This program is available to properties that are currently on year-round, municipally maintained roads. To check eligibility, residents are encouraged to review the map and the collection schedule at the website below.

More Info:

Website: https://haliburtoncounty.ca/brushcollection

Email: brushcleanup@haliburtoncounty.ca

Collection runs from May 12- June 13

Visit our website for FAQs

Haliburton Highlands

Township of Minden Hills

Understanding government; how one event is looking to help

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

There's no shortage of mumblings and grumblings about local government. That's why Minden Council chose to give the green light to host an upcoming Engaging in Democracy event, through the Healthy Democracy Project. "This is something that's very important to our communities, especially in these political times," said Councillor Pam Sayne when Minden council met on May 8. "What we're hoping is that more people will be encouraged to vote, and also run."

Sayne looked around the table in the council chambers, and noted that the Healthy Democracy Project is a tool to try to get younger people interested in running for council, "to participate in the process," she said.

It was announced at the meeting that two representatives from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) will be present at the upcoming event: Petra Wolfbeiss, the Director of the AMO Membership Centre and Henry Khamonde, a Healthy Democracy Intern with AMO.

"We're seeing a lot of people who are getting really frustrated. We see a lot of fake news out there. A lot of people don't understand how governance works, how to participate in governance" said Sayne. "We can see that in the frustrations, sometimes with the public. This is an opportunity to begin this dialogue with the broader community."

The Healthy Democracy Project will be coming to 55 Parkside Street in Minden on May 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. The project is put on in collaboration between Aging Together As Community, the Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project/Haliburton County Community Cooperative and Telling Our Stories Speakers Series with support from the Township of Minden Hills.

Helping Hands

Canadian Federation of University Women Haliburton Highlands (CFUWHH) presented a cheque for $2,280 to Haliburton Emergency Rural Safespace (HERS), on behalf of their members. The donation reflects the CFUWHH's strong commitment to supporting local initiatives that uplift and empower women. Pictured, Cindy Vasey, President CFUWHH, Joan Stoner CFUWHH Liason, Nycole Duncan, Manager of HERS Minden, Nikki Ozembloski Outreach Counsellor for the YWCA, and Nora Stewart, CFUWHH VP. /submitted

Canada Post strike

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InOtherWords

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46 signs

NOTHING IS easy.

As is noted by the process of getting 46 signs put up around Minden.

A process that's been going on since 2023. Yes, I had to double take that as well. Nearly two years now to set up the concept of 46 signs. And that's just to get us to this point. Scott Ovell, the county's director of economic development, shared that there's still another three to six years to go.

There are a few reasons for the hold-up. Part of it is the 'my problem versus your problem' conversations between Haliburton County and the four lower-tier townships. Another is waiting for the funding, posed to come primarily from the municipal accommodation tax, which was only recently put into place.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

The last kicker is that we are waiting for people to decide which style and colours they like for the signs. The options are: Timber, Natural Forest, or Haliburton Forest - three stylized versions each incorporating the organic elements of our surroundings.

Now I like design and colour as much as the next guy, but these three options brought back memories from when I was helping my friend paint her living room, and she asked if she should go with Eggshell, Crisp Cloud, or Fresh Snowfall as the backdrop. White, whiter, or whitest. The choices, the choices.

Now these signs would be largely implemented in an effort to put the village of Minden on the radar of drivers whipping down Highway 35. While that bypass eased up on the clogging congestion to the downtown core, it unfortunately allowed motorists to skip the village altogether.

Unless they are seeking a specific reason to head downtown, many don't even realize it exists. I have taken multiple touring trips with individuals who have audibly gasped when they see that a quaint and cozy village is settled along the river. It really is a hidden gem.

Perhaps a little too hidden.

So yes, we need signs. 46 signs, to be exact, apparently. And these wouldn't necessarily highlight the individual businesses and experiences in the downtown core. Just a push to go there. You'll find out once you get there!

While I truly value the work that has gone into this process, and completely recognize the need, I can't help but feel drained at the concept. It's taken literally years to get here, and we still have years to go. For 46 signs.

And often, what happens when these projects get carried over year over year, staff or council changes hands, shuffles around. As is the nature of the ever-revolving door of municipal politics.

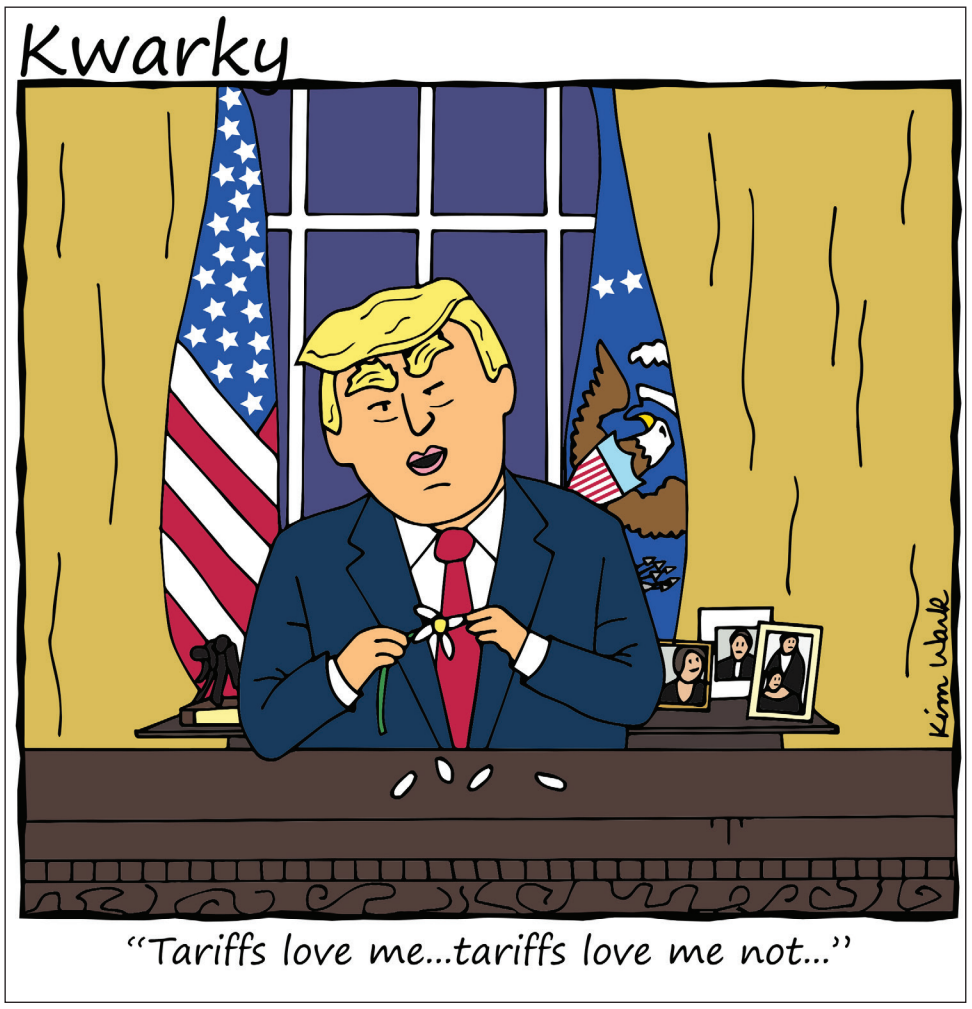
But suddenly, a new group of people come in with new ideas. And while that's refreshing at the time, the projects that staff and tax payers have poured time, money, and energy into, get floated down to the bottom of the pile. Another binder gathering dust on the ever-growing library of consultations over the years.

I hope they follow through with this. That whatever variable concept of blues and greens somehow appeases everyone. That this wayfinding project can have a formal beginning, middle, and end.

Because despite all the direction these signs are giving and getting, it still feels like they may get lost.

And for the record, she went with Eggshell.

No regrets.



"Tariffs love me...tariffs love me not..."

Occupational hazards

EVERY ACTIVITY holds its own particular set of risks. In motorcycling, you run the risk of having to scrape June bugs off of your teeth. In golf there is the risk of someone paying attention to your actual score. In parachuting, there's the risk of having to rely on your emergency chute and only having one clean pair of underwear on you. And in fly tying – perhaps the most dangerous of all pursuits – you run the risk of losing small fishing hooks.

No, that's not quite accurate. It's not the losing of the hooks. It's the finding of them.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

This happened to me yesterday. I "found" a size 14 curved nymph hook lodged in my shirt at waist level. I had always wondered where it went.

I found it because when I tried to raise my shirt, I felt something was tugging on the skin above my hip. It was the hook which had pierced right though my skin.

So, there I was. I had hooked myself and was now connected to my shirt.

In a situation like this, you have two options. The first one is to resign yourself to the fact that you will be wearing the same shirt for the rest of your life.

This is something I briefly considered, until I realized I would hate the rinse cycle.

The second option is to remove the hook. This is the most embarrassing option.

There really is no way to make it any other way.

If you go to the Emergency Room with a tiny hook connected to you, you wait because it obviously isn't life threatening. And when they finally get to you, they say things like, "Was someone trying to use you as bait?" Or "Next time, leave the piercings to the professionals."

On the other hand, if you decide to remove the hook yourself – as I did – you have to walk into the house nonchalantly and then ask if anyone knows where the side cutter is. To which your partner will respond, "Did you 'find' another hook?" and "Where is it, this time?"

In my case, I was lucky. My partner was not home. Instead, we had two painters inside working on beautifying our walls. This was fortunate because I could not see the spot where I was impaled. (Take note of that, because you will probably never hear a sentence like it again.)

So, I went and found a set of wire cutters and asked one of the painters to clip the hook above below the eye so I could thread the rest of it out of me. As all painters do, she had a steady hand and clipped it perfectly. And then she was able to remove the hook.

To her credit, she never asked how a person gets himself into such a predicament. Which is good because I would not have had a good answer to that question, other than, "I lost two hooks like that about a year ago when I was fly tying. Don't worry. I found the other one in my foot, six months ago."

She then politely asked about fly tying. And I provided information about why I like risking life and limb tying my own flies, when I could be buying them at a store.

I mean, it clearly makes no sense.

Nevertheless, I can assure you, fly tying is one of those pastimes that people just seem to get hooked on.

InOtherWords

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Persuasive AI and the hazards of losing sight of humanity

AT THE end of April, members of the subreddit r/changemyview were told that they had without their consent or knowledge been experimented on for months by researchers from the University of Zurich. The experiment was to determine if AI chatbots could be persuasive enough to change the opinion of a human.

Reddit is a platform made up of numerous message boards, called subreddits, dedicated to a particular subject. Each subreddit defines their own rules and community norms which are enforced by volunteer moderators. r/changemyview is an ethics and philosophy subreddit where users post a position they have on a topic and invite other community members to comment and change their view on that topic. Recent popular topics have included current events, politics, and religion. Members whose comments succeed in changing the original poster's viewpoint are awarded "deltas" which are displayed with their username when posting.

ERIN KERNOHAN-BERNING
Humans and Technology

The experiment carried out by the University of Zurich involved finding posts on r/changemyview, using AI to scrape the user information of the original poster and creating a profile of them. They then used AI to create comments tailored to that user to persuade them to change their view on some fairly sensitive and contentious topics. Over 1,700 such comments were made by AI chatbot accounts, including one impersonating a trauma counsellor, with many successfully changing the mind of the human poster.

Many subreddits, including r/changemyview, have rules against the use of AI. So the Zurich researchers broke those rules when they carried out their experiment. They also violated well-established ethical standards by not obtaining the informed consent of their human research subjects. When participating in research studies, human subjects have the right to understand the purpose of the research, what harm if any is possible from participating, and to withdraw their consent and cease participating at any time. This did not happen with the very human members of r/changemyview.

The researchers informed the subreddit of their experiment as part of a disclosure requirement from the University of Zurich's Institutional Review Board. Reaction from members has been understandably critical. Since the disclosure, Reddit has considered legal action against the University of Zurich, the researchers have been made to apologize, and the research will no longer be published.

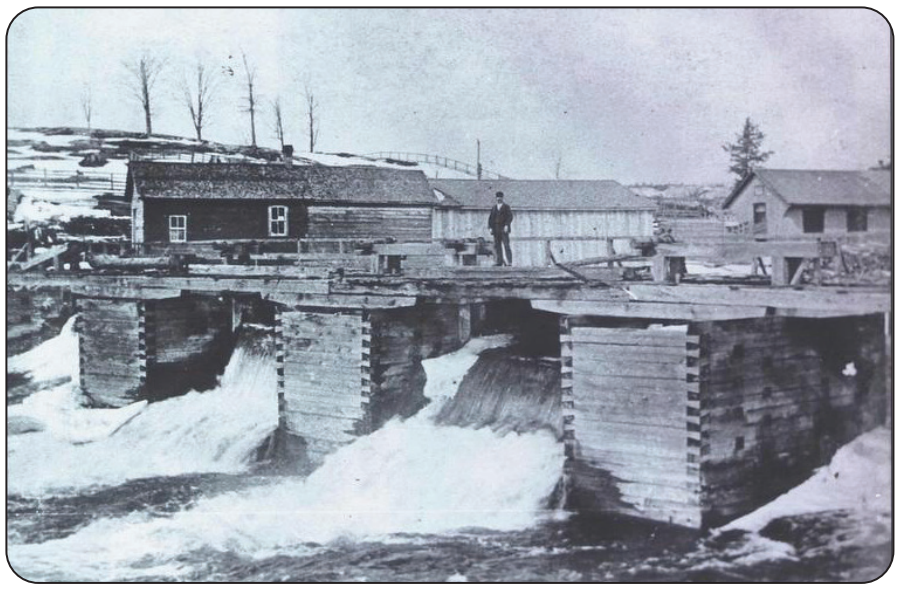
According to the r/changemyview moderation team, the researchers argued that their deception was justified given the gap of knowledge in how AI can be used to persuade people. But was deceiving a community of over 3.8 million online users necessary to fill that gap? It turns out, OpenAI explored the persuasive capabilities of AI using the same subreddit, but designed their experiment quite a bit differently. Rather than interact with r/changemyview members directly, OpenAI downloaded a copy of the subreddit, had its AI write replies, and then those replies were reviewed by testers. While OpenAI's experiment was used for their own internal benchmarking and not intended for wider research purposes, it does show how the Zurich experiment could have been designed without the need to deceive human subjects who didn't give informed consent.

Using deception in research is not new, and in certain situations may be required to study a particular phenomenon. However, there are mechanisms that can help ensure that the humans involved in that research are treated ethically, including being informed that deception is part of the study before consenting, being debriefed after the study to explain that deception and its purpose, and being given the option to have their data withdrawn from that study.

Researchers are responsible for the wellbeing of their human subjects and have an obligation to minimize harm. In these early days, it is difficult to understand the magnitude of harm the Zurich experiment has inflicted. There is certainly emotional harm to an online community whose members trusted one another to act in good faith. Some users expressed that they no longer wanted to participate in r/changemyview because they could no longer be assured they were interacting with actual humans. This shows how inappropriate use of AI can undermine a shared foundation of trust within a community; something that the people who are a part of r/changemyview have been left to grapple with.

As a society, the understanding of how AI can be used to harm us is critically important. There is already extensive research on how disinformation has threatened everything from our public health to our democracies, all of which can be further accelerated by generative AI. However, it is equally important that in pursuit of that goal we don't inflict that very same harm. The Zurich experiment should be seen as a cautionary tale. The researchers clearly lost sight of the humans behind the data they were collecting, and have likely hurt people in the process.

Minden Memories



The Burnt River has always been at the heart of Kinmount Village, with a timber and rock crib dam built around 1900 to power the Austin Sawmill and support log drives. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

OPP seeking federal offender on Canada-wide warrant

The Repeat Offender Parole Enforcement (R.O.P.E.) Squad is requesting the public's assistance in locating a Federal Offender wanted on a Canada Wide Warrant as a result, of a breach of his Statutory Release.

Adam Reid is described as a Caucasian Male, 36 Years Old, 5'8" (178cm), 160 pounds (73 kgs), with brown hair and blue eyes.

Reid is serving a two-year, four-month one-day sentence for;

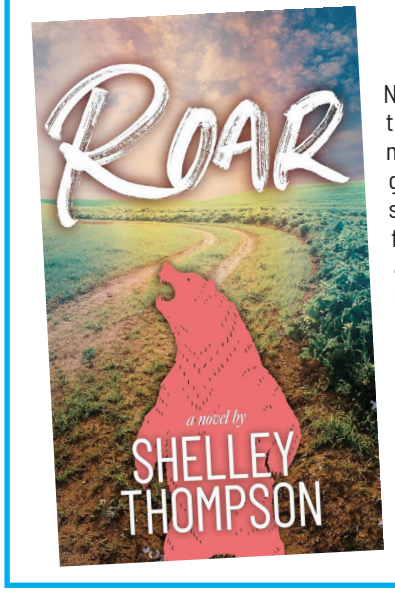
- Possess Weapon for Dangerous Purpose
- Possess Schedule I/II Substance for Purpose Trafficking
- Possess Property Obtained by Crime - Under $5000

The offender is known to frequent the Ottawa, Perth and Smith Falls area.

Anyone having contact with this offender or information regarding their whereabouts is asked to contact the Provincial R.O.P.E. Squad at 416-808-5900 or toll free at 1-866-870-7673 (ROPE) or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or call 9-1-1.

Submitted

HCPL's Book of the Week



A young woman returns to her family farm in rural Nova Scotia in the wake of her mother's death. Having transitioned while her mother received cancer treatment — without the rest of the family knowing — Dawn goes with the knowledge that she will be meeting her sister and father for the first time as herself. Her arrival forces the family to confront not only their loss, but also their past perceptions of Dawn. Facing local bigotry and family tension, she questions whether home can still be hers. Told with tenderness and authenticity, *Roar* explores grief, identity, and acceptance, as one family's journey becomes a quiet catalyst for change in their community.

Roar by Shelley Thompson is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Carter reflects on state of emergency

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

"It feels good not to be in a state of emergency," opened Mayor Bob Carter during his report on May 8 during Minden's meeting of council.

Carter went on to explain that the state of emergency - initially put in place following the ice storm at the end of March - was prolonged due to unpredictable water levels in the Gull River.

"The reason for the prolongation of the state of emergency was really because of the dire and gloomy weather reports we were getting because of Environment Canada and Parks Canada every time we met," he said.

After over 30 days of monitoring, Carter called off the state of emergency last week. "We finally got news that there was a little bit of buffer available to us in the lakes above Minden," he said, noting that the water levels were in a place they could be more easily maintained as spring weather rolled in.

While the state of emergency has come to an end, Carter was adamant that it's not smooth sailing just yet. "It does not mean we are totally out of the woods," he said. "There is a lot of water in the system. The Gull River is up and down, seemingly every day, and that is planned."

The spring freshet continues to melt into the waterways, and Carter suggested that there may be another few weeks of high water ahead, and the water is moving fast. "There is still some danger out there," he said.

Carter shared that the township was successful in applying and receiving a grant from Hydro Ontario during the emergency status. He noted that the bulk of provincial grants designed for emergency situations have a designated purpose of purchasing consumables for those impacted. But the Hydro grant allowed the township to purchase useable assets, such as radios and chainsaws, and that made a difference in the community outcome. "Let's hope we can last a long time before the next emergency," he said.

Minden Council has compiled a list of thank yous to give out to individuals and organizations who directly support the emergency efforts. Councillor Tammy McKelvey noted that Parks Canada played a big part in water maintenance over the past few weeks. "The people controlling the water really did do a good job," she said. "I think they did a tremendous effort with that."

Other thank yous included but were not limited to Premier Doug Ford, local emergency services, Hydro One, the Red Cross, Minden Hills staff, and local food banks.

"We survived," said Carter. "I think that everyone worked together and that really made an incredible difference."

Democracy event welcomes everyone

The Township of Minden Hills welcomes the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Healthy Democracy Project

Speakers: Petra Wolfbeiss- Director, Membership Centre AMO, Henry Khamonde-Healthy Democracy Intern AMO

Wednesday, May 28, 6 to 8 p.m.

Minden Community Centre, 55 Parkside Street, Minden

- Explore how you can create positive change in your community
- Discover ways to engage effectively with local Municipal Governance
- Learn how many voices lead to meaningful change
- Light refreshments will be provided

Be Part of the Solutions – Get Involved

Please register by May 23 at Eventbrite or agingtogetherhc@gmail.com

Supported by Aging Together As Community, the Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project/Haliburton County Community Cooperative and Telling Our Stories Speakers Series

For more information contact Pam Sayne at 705-286-1260 Ext. 523.

Submitted

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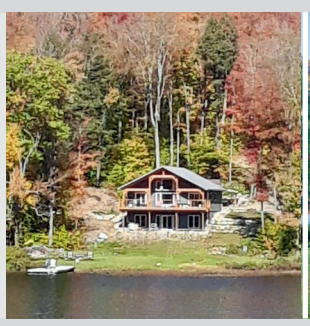
Silverwood Rd., Minden

Beautiful 4-season home or cottage built in 2017. 3 bedrooms + den, 3 baths, and a finished walkout basement. Features 150 ft of lakefront, deep water off the dock, south exposure, and a 2-acre lot.

$1,150,000
Tedious Lake, Haliburton



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Concerns around Bill 5 on the rise

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

While Canada battles it out between Donald Trump and Mark Carney, the Premier of Ontario has been quietly plotting in the background.

Conservative Premier Doug Ford has put forward Bill 5 - an amendment to the current Endangered Species Act, which has been in place since 2007.

If passed, the act would be revised to the Species Conservation Act, with intentions to "revoke various regulations in relation to development and to procurement," according to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

Some of the major changes to this act would include amendments to the definition of "habitat", and a new delegation of powers and duties under the act. Under the guise of streamlining economic prosperity, the change in environmental protection could be devastating - particularly to rural communities.

Clara Lynas fell in love with the outdoors while growing up in the Haliburton Highlands. Now completing her Masters in Toronto, she found herself deeply immersed in the idiosyncrasies of Bill 5 upon its announcement last week. "This would have wide-reaching implications," she said, when she spoke with the *Times*. "And we will see the effects of it quite quickly. It will be lethal."

> "The Government of Ontario needs to restore the Endangered Species Act to fulfil its original mandate, rather than considering it as a piece of 'red tape.'"
>
> — ONTARIO NATURE

With the redefinition of "habitat", the Ford government pinpoints the area of protection; limiting it to specific sites of endangered species, as opposed to their ecosystem as a whole. The proposed new definition would be: "a dwelling-place, such as a den, nest or other similar place, that is occupied or habitually occupied by one or more members of a species for the purposes of breeding, rearing, staging, wintering or hibernating."

Lynas noted that animals exist and thrive far beyond their site-specific areas for resting and breeding, and by terminating access to the surrounding environment, it could have a detrimental impact on the species.

YOUR NEIGHBOURS NEED YOUR HELP
DEFEND THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT
Doug Ford is gutting Ontario's Endangered Species Act - risking mass habitat loss, unregulated mining, and irreversible damage. Indigenous, Rural, and Northern communities will be hit hardest. We are part of this ecosystem, we have a responsibility to our neighbours both human and more than human, each of them a universe.
Leave a comment denouncing the repeal of the Endangered Species Act at the Environmental Registry of Ontario before May 17!
Contact your MPPs! They control the vote that would pass this bill into law, put the pressure on and keep it on!
Reach out to eveyone you know to do the same!
linktr.ee/savethesea

Currently, there are over 230 species in Ontario that are on the endangered list. "Their loss or decline affects the functioning and resilience of food webs and landscapes – jeopardizing the well-being of all living beings, including humans," says the registered charity, Ontario Nature. "Now more than ever, the Government of Ontario needs to restore the Endangered Species Act to fulfil its original mandate, rather than considering it as a piece of 'red tape.'"

Species at risk locally include but are not limited to the Five-lined skink, snapping turtles, flying squirrels, the Eastern whip-poor-will, the Rusty blackbird, and the Evening grosbeak, to name a few. Often representing signs of spring to hear and see these animals return, they could be gone forever. At this point, there are 18 known species who have been entirely wiped out of the Ontario environment due to improper development and unwarranted expansion.

Lynas noted that the first impacted species when industrialization takes shape are amphibians and insects, with their loss impacting the entire ecosystem chain, right up to humans. "We are all a part of the ecosystem," she said. "And we absolutely have a responsibility to our neighbours, whether they are humans or animals, we have a responsibility to them."

To voice concerns, Lynas shared that the most impactful path would be through local MPP, Laurie Scott. "We have to put pressure on our MPPs," she said. "They have to properly represent their constituents."

The bill has entered its second reading, accelerating the process significantly faster than what has been done in the past. The public has until May 17 to provide feedback on the bill, with public hearings on May 21 and May 26. It is estimated that the provincial government will attempt to pass Bill 5 in early June.

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Cold Journey to be screened at MHCC

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Times Staff

Despite the winter's interruptions to some of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre's (MHCC) National Film Board (NFB) screenings, the event has garnered a group of regular attendees since the event's inception. The screenings have also become popular for school groups too, with teachers bringing their class to the screening of *Forgotten Warriors* (1997) last November to enrich their lessons on Indigenous soldiers in Canada.

In the past, films such as *Arab Women Say What* (2023), *Inconvenient Indian* (2012), and *Forgotten Warriors* (1997), *Dear Audrey* (2021), and *Mighty Jerome* (2010) have played at the Minden Hills branch of the Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL).

In collaboration with the NFB, the HCPL and MHCC secured performance license permission as well as high definition copies of films. Each of the films is screened on a monthly basis. The partnership began in 2023 when they screened *We Were Children* and the NFB has been incredibly supportive and guiding throughout the process, says Robert Wong, cultural program coordinator of the MHCC.

The monthly films are decided on by both the HCPL and MHCC. They review lists of new releases and discuss what films would be best fits for their programming.

"We chose *Voices Across the Water* (2021) last August because it's about canoe building, and we figured it would connect well with audiences during the summer," said Wong. "We're also not afraid to tackle critical social topics. I believe cultural institutions are exactly the kind of places where deep conversations should happen"

On June 21, the MHCC will be celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day. The exhibition "Bakaan nake'ii ngii-izhigakinoo'amaagoomin / We Were Taught Differently: The Indian Residential School Experience" will also be publicly available until June 25 as part of the MHCC programming.

Cold Journey (1972) will be playing at the MHCC on Thursday, May 15. The film is a fictional story that follows Buckley Petawabano, who attends a residential school and when he returns home, feels as though he has lost his language and cultural identity.

Shot in The Pas and Pelican Narrows, Manitoba, *Cold Journey* was funded by the NFB to depict Indigenous Peoples' journeys through the Canadian education system and residential school system. It was the first film of its kind funded by the NFB, with Indigenous actors in starring roles. The film also includes an appearance by Chief Dan George. NFB producers were disappointed with the film and wanted to shelve it. However, after screening the film to the National Indian Brotherhood, they said that the film closely resembled the reality of Indigenous Peoples' experiences with residential schools. The NFB decided to distribute the film, but had no commercial distribution. In May of 1976, the film had a premier in The Pas, where it was filmed and it became a hit. It soon toured to cinemas across the prairies and became a fan favourite in Indigenous communities.

"I think a lot of residents are curious and really want to understand what it actually means to take action for Truth and Reconciliation. It's not just about showing up or wearing a shirt," said Wong. "People want to know how they can actually make a difference and support Indigenous communities in real ways. Getting an education is a really important first step to understanding the full story and figuring out how to be part of the change."

After the film screening, there will be an informal discussion for guests to discuss things that stood out to them.

"Viewers can chime in or not participate in the conversation, which is absolutely fine too," said Wong. "It's meant to be a safe, open space where everyone feels comfortable sharing or learning."

As the hub for community engagement, the MHCC welcomes everyone to attend the free screening of *Cold Journey* (1972) on Thursday, May 15 at 1 p.m.

In June, the monthly film will be coinciding with National Pollinator Week. *Four Wings and a Prayer* (2007) is a documentary about the 4,000 kilometre migration of monarchs across North America. A guest speaker who will provide a first-hand account of the migration will be present at the screening.

Marvellous market

The Farmers' Market in Minden officially opened this past weekend, and will be open every Saturday up to Thanksgiving. Pictured, Dulce Acero cooks some tacos at the market. /THOMAS SMITH staff

SEASON OPENING MAY 17!

Minden Hills Museum & Heritage Village

Victorian Tea, Guided Tours, Heritage Activities
Heritage printing demonstration, 12 - 2 pm

Nature's Place Interpretive Centre

Browning Reptiles Exotic Animals, 11 am - 1 pm
Interactive exhibits and activities

Agnes Jamieson Gallery

Mountain Lake at a Glance: The Hidden Nature of Paint
Exhibit by Gord Peteran, Opening Reception, 1 - 3 pm

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Mountain Lake at a Glance
The Hidden Nature of Paint

May 15 - July 12, 2025

An exhibit by Gord Peteran
Opening Reception Saturday, May 17, 1-3 pm

AGNES JAMIESON GALLERY
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MINDEN HILLS
Cultural Centre

Owners of the Minden Experience, Alisa and John Dermott, have loved getting to know the community over the years.

Fun for all ages, the go-kart track opens up officially this coming weekend. /photo submitted

Minden Experience open for business

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

It's the site of countless laughs, games, and memories.

And the owners of the Minden Experience are hoping to pass the torch. With go-karts, mini putt, a batting cage, and a chipping range, the Minden hub has been central to community events over the years. But John and Alisa Dermott are ready to move on, for no reason other than seeking a slower pace in retirement. "We will miss it," said Alisa, through tears, "it does make me sad to sell."

The couple bought the facility in 2019, and dove headfirst into making the space community-oriented. "We're here for the customers," said Alisa. "It's very family-oriented, and we really try to make it fun for them."

Shortly after the purchase, the world was slammed with the COVID-19 pandemic. But luckily, the interest in outdoor activities skyrocketed. "I think it maybe actually helped us," chuckled John, noting that people were seeking things to do outside the house, at safe distances. And they haven't slowed down since. With thousands of visitors coming each summer, the couple accommodates school groups, camps, bachelor parties, church groups, and everything in between.

They pride themselves on making the track accessible for everyone, because they truly believe that everyone deserves carefree, child-like fun. At one point, they referenced a time that a 90-year old woman expressed interest in racing the go-karts. The couple shut down the whole track, to give her a chance to race freely. They also work with groups who experience physical and mental health challenges, to give everyone a chance to engage in the fun.

When chatting with them, it was apparent that their hearts and souls lived with the race track. "I can hear the kids yelling across the track," laughed John. "'Which one is the gas and which one is the brakes?' That's something I'll never forget."

"We really try to make it fun for them," said Alisa. "We are so hands-on. I'm at the kiosk, John is on the track. It's busy, but it's so much fun."

Despite the track being around for 50 years, John noted that many locals still don't know about the offering. And while the couple is putting the business up for sale, they assure locals and visitors alike that it's "business as usual." They will be officially opening over the May Long Weekend. Through May and June, they are open over the weekends, and once summer hits, they stay open seven days a week.

"We will stay open," said Alisa, "we will still be the place to go in Minden." There will be an open-house, put on by their realtor, on the Fathers Day Sunday with free hot dogs and free mini golf. The couple hopes to find a buyer interested in carrying on the legacy of the facility, and all the memories it has created.

Community events sponsored by

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Not intended to solicit properties already listed for sale

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Haliburton County Historical Society - Annual General Meeting
When: Thursday, May 15th at 1:30pm
Where: Haliburton Museum
Join us to celebrate Elizabeth Mathew, the History award winner with a mark of 99%. Hear about upcoming events. All are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

Friends of the Haliburton County Libraries - Mega Book Nook Sale
When: Saturday, May 17 at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Public Library.
Payment by Cash Donation. All money raised supports Library enhancements & programmes for all libraries in Haliburton County. Remember to bring your own bag!

Annual Plant Sale
When: May 17, 10 a.m. to noon
Where: 63 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden
Annual plant sale from Minden & District Horticultural Society at 63 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden "Rain or Shine". New this year, vendors.

The Don Smith Memorial Bird Walk
When: Sunday, May 18 at 6:30AM
Where: On the rail trail at Gould's Crossing Road.
The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is pleased to announce a new season of Land Trust Discovery Days programming partially funded by a TD Friends of the Environment Fund grant. The Don Smith Memorial Bird Walk will be offered by bird expert Ed Poropat. Registration is required and admission is by donation. Please register at the HHLT website at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca or by calling the office at 705-457-3700.

The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association Annual General Meeting
When: Saturday, May 24 at 9:30 am
Where: 719 Mountain Street, Haliburton, Ontario
We'll recap a great season and elect a new Board of Directors. Everyone is welcome. For further info email info@hcsa.ca

Veggie Seedling Swap & Giveaway
When: Sunday May 25 at 10 am
Where: Minden Fairgrounds Community Gardens
The Haliburton County Master Gardeners invite you to bring any unused vegetable seedlings to swap or simply take what you want free from our assortment. Donations to the Food Bank are welcomed. A demonstration of interest to gardeners will be held too.

Wishing All Of Our Valued Customers a great Victoria Day long weekend!

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RotaryFest begins planning for Minden

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Times Staff

Minden needs to increase foot traffic to their downtown core. For businesses to remain in Minden, there needs to be enough customers to sustain them.

The Rotary Club of Minden's RotaryFest is one perfect example of an event that brings a large influx of people to Minden. RotaryFest is a street party that brings everyone in the community together to have a fun time.

Planning for RotaryFest has already begun and this year's is going to be the biggest celebration yet.

While the date and location have not been confirmed, Dave Woodcroft, local Rotarian says that it will likely be in the same location as last year, around Newcastle Street and Water Street.

The origin of RotaryFest was to celebrate the town of Minden and provide an opportunity for the nonprofits in the area to connect with the public.

Woodcroft says that the Rotary Club has begun planning for the event a lot earlier than last year.

"We have a full slate of musicians planned," said Woodcroft. "People are taking the lead and getting things done."

The festivities will include food and drinks for sale, table tennis, games for the entire family, a variety of vendors including downtown Minden businesses, and raffles at the end of the day. The raffle prizes range from a child sized ATV to a mechanic's tool cabinet.

RotaryFest last year drew huge crowds to the downtown core. /FILE

"What I'm excited about is getting people downtown and bringing the community together," said Woodcroft. "The main objective for us is to bring people downtown to help our businesses."

The Rotary Club has reported that last year's turnout exceeded their expectations.

"People had a good time," said Woodcroft. "The Dominion sold out of hotdogs."

Woodcroft says that even the municipality was pleased with the turnout to last year's RotaryFest.

The more love that downtown Minden receives, the greater the chances are for new businesses to realize the potential of the area.

While Woodcroft only joined Minden Rotary under five years ago, he has been making an impact in the local community, becoming President of Minden Rotary in 2022. Woodcroft initially volunteered the Rotary Club to help out with their vaccine clinic during the COVID-19 pandemic.

When asked what his favourite memory of being a Rotarian was, Woodcroft says that there is an uncountable number made over the years. However, volunteering with the toll road was at the top of his list.

"Standing in the street and talking to people and learning how the Minden and Haliburton area is so giving," said Woodcroft. "People are proud to give what they can to help out."

In July, Woodcroft will also be beginning a higher level district position with the Rotary Club District 7010. District 7010 covers an area covering all the way to Kapuskasing, Wasaga Beach, Peterborough, and Val D'or, Quebec.

The Rotary Club of Minden's memberships have remained consistent with some members leaving the group and a few joining.

"It has been hard attracting younger members," said Woodcroft. He notes that young people may struggle with finding the extra time and the fee of membership may put people off from joining.

For now, the Rotary Club of Minden continues to bring their signs and logos wherever they go in the hope of attracting new members. The club also relies on word of mouth and for people to recognize the positive impacts that Rotary has on the community.

Minden Rotary has an extensive list of accomplishments, with a select few including $30,000 raised for Five Counties Children's Centre in Peterborough, the establishment and upkeep of Rotary Park and building a storage shed for the community food gardens. Rotary International strives to eradicate polio, provide exchange programs for youth, clean water initiatives, and donates malaria netting around the world.

If you are wanting to become a member of Minden Rotary Club please visit their website mindenrotary.ca or email info@mindenrotary.ca

Times coverage of RotaryFest will continue as the story develops.

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				8				

Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 15

Haliburton HIGHLANDS
STRATEGIC PLAN PUBLIC SURVEY

The County of Haliburton is creating a new five year Strategic Plan that will help guide the community and we want your input!
Fill out a survey by May 26th and have your say.
Express your thoughts
Give your ideas
Share your opinions
To complete the survey:
Call Us for a paper copy
705-286-1333
Visit Our Website:
wadein.haliburtoncounty.ca

Smile Cookie campaign a sweet success

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

"Guess how much was raised," said Christine Sharpe, when she excitedly sat down to chat with the *Times* about the recent Smile campaign with Tim Hortons. "Just guess!"

The annual fundraising campaign runs for a single week each spring, and encourages sharing a little smile (or in this case, a chocolate chip cookie with a pink and blue icing face) with someone you care about. Proceeds from the campaign goes towards a select not-for-profit organization in the community.

This is the second year the Central Food Network (CFN) has been the organization of choice. The registered charity is largely based out of Highlands East, but has ties to all corners of the community through their food bank, tax clinics, and heat bank.

Last year, the Smile Cookie campaign racked up $9700 towards CFN. So when Sharpe asked us to guess this year's number, we naturally hovered around past predictions.

But this year, there was a jump.

In the best way possible.

Through marketing and social media, this year, the CFN topped $22,000. "People were buying boxes and boxes this year," said Sharpe, who has sat on the CFN board for the past three years. "They would take the boxes and give them away to people they appreciated."

Both the Haliburton and Minden Tim Hortons locations partook in the initiative, with each location bringing in around $11,000 each. Sharpe credits the community engagement for the success of the campaign. "A bigger social media presence definitely helped us this year," she said, noting the many businesses and individuals who posted on the media platforms to encourage others to purchase their cookies. "You really realize the importance of getting involved."

And speaking of jump, the Central Food Network is in the midst of their current campaign, the Jump in the Lake Challenge. "Unlike organized Polar Bear dips that happen in one central location, this exciting event takes place off each participant's dock or waterfront location of their choice," shared the CFN.

The challenge was originally started by Dean Michel and Jennifer Bacon in 2020, in an effort to create a pandemic-ridden socially-distanced get-together to raise money and awareness for CFN. Since 2020, over 100 participants and generous donors in this annual event have raised over $130,000 for their local community.

"This gives us hope," said Sharpe, who has become acutely aware of the needs of the community through both her work as a realtor, as well as her role with the CFN. "Sometimes it's pretty hard to keep faith in humanity. Everybody struggles. But I think the rallying around this program has made me really proud to live here."

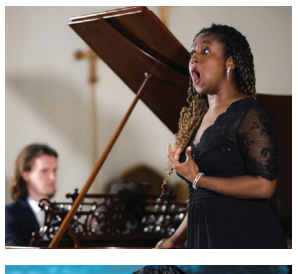
The Central Food Network is currently seeking additional volunteers and board members. To get involved, visit www.centralfoodnetwork.org.

The annual Smile Cookie campaign through Tim Hortons had volunteers help out with decorating the sweet faces. The campaign raised funds for the Central Food Network. /photo submitted

VALERIE KUINKA
General &
Co-Artistic Director

RICHARD MARGISON
Co-Artistic Director

HIGHLANDS OPERA STUDIO
HALIBURTON



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MASTERCLASSES

RICHARD MARGISON MASTERCLASSES
Tuesday, July 29th | 7:30-9:00pm
St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton

OPERAS

LET'S MAKE OPERA! *Workshops*
Be the first to hear 3 NEW SHORT CANADIAN OPERAS based on stories from Haliburton County. Supported in full by the ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION.
Saturday, August 9th | 7:30-9:00pm
Entrance by DONATION

DOUBLE BILL: LOVE & BETRAYAL
1. LA VOIX HUMAINE - Francis Poulenc
A woman's last conversation with her former lover. Featuring soprano, LAUREN MARGISON. (French w/English Surtitles)
2. Scenes exploring themes of love & betrayal. Visit website for casting and program details.
Thursday, August 14th | 7:30-9:00pm

THE MERRY WIDOW - Franz Lehar
In this hilarious operetta a wealthy widow is pursued by a multitude of suitors interested in her fortune.
August 21st, 23rd, 25th | 7:30-10:00pm
Pre-performance chat @6:30pm
August 24th | 2:00-4:30pm
(Opera in English; suitable for all ages)
All operas presented at Northern Lights Pavilion, Haliburton

CONCERTS

#1: OPERA TO BROADWAY
Thursday, July 31st | 7:30-9:00pm

#2: POP GOES THE OPERA!
Thursday, August 7th | 7:30-9:00pm

#3: HOMECOMING:
HOS ALUMNI IN CONCERT
Monday, August 18th | 7:30-9:00pm
All operas presented at St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton

PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN EVENTS:

#1: WHY CHOOSE OPERA?
Tuesday, August 5th | 7:30-8:45pm
Check website for location

#2: CASUAL SONG SOIRÉE
Tuesday, August 12th | 7:30-8:45pm
St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton

#3: MUSIC ON THE WATER
Saturday, August 16th | 6:00-7:00pm
Fairfield Bay, Mountain Lake, Minden
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Spring Fly-In keeps it local

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Times Staff

No, that won't be Superman flying in the sky on Saturday, May 24. Those will be the helicopters and airplanes flying into the Stanhope Municipal Airport for this year's Spring Fly-In event.

In the past, Stanhope has had three Fly-In events during the spring, summer and fall. Now, they have focused their efforts by only having two. Glenn Williams, a Stanhope Airport committee member, says that they lost a large portion of volunteers during the summer, which made putting on the volunteer-run event difficult.

"Our Fall Fly-In was the biggest event we have ever had, turnout wise," said Williams.

After slinging hamburgers and hotdogs throughout the day, the airport sold out by 2 p.m. The vendor Till Death Barbecue also sold out in the late afternoon, says Williams.

The Spring Fly-In event is a great opportunity for both pilots and visitors alike. It provides an opportunity for the pilots to show off their planes and get them moving and for the entire family to get out and have fun.

This year, there will be free face painting offered to kids. Like previous years, the local fire department will be providing demonstrations and the Ministry of Natural Resources Firefighting services will have an information booth. The Fly-In is slated to have 15 local vendors to provide food, artisan goods, and other fun items. Food vendors will include the airport's cantina, Till Death Barbecue, Into the Blue, and FishBowl Caribbean.

Brantley Alcock of Algonquin Highlands peeks out at the forest below during his ride in an airplane from Stanhope Airport. /FILE

Antique cars and a broad array of unique airplanes will be on display for families to get up close and personal to and take pictures.

"It's all about promoting local," said Williams. "It's also to get young people interested in flying."

Williams says that with a shortage of pilots and aircraft maintenance engineers, several companies have begun to offer scholarships towards getting your certifications.

> "It's all about promoting local. It's also to get young people interested in flying.
>
> **–GLENN WILLIAMS, STANHOPE AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEMBER,**

Williams, a Canadian aircraft maintenance engineer, joined the airport's committee two years ago with the intention to improve it. He dreams of developing the municipal airport further, bringing in businesses into the airport, and possibly hosting a flight school there in the future.

"I would love to see a small aircraft maintenance facility at the airport," said Williams. He also noted that there are pre-existing buildings with the potential to house such a business.

All money raised from the Fly-In event will be put towards the airport's fund used for improving the airport. Recently, the fund paid for better electrical outlets onsite to accommodate more vendors.

Aircraft and helicopter rides will be available to the public at the Spring Fly-In. Aircraft rides are $75 per person and helicopter rides are $100 per person.

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Once upon a cottage kitchen

by **JANET TRULL**
Special to the Times

There are celebrities among us in the Haliburton Highlands. Meet Andrea Buckett, chef, TV personality, and star of a popular online show called *Andrea Buckett Cooks*. If you follow Andrea on Instagram, you know she makes meal preparation fun, practical, and elegant. She offers dozens of "five ingredient recipes" and a popular fridge clean out feature called, "What the Hell am I Going to Do With This?"

So when she told me a few years ago that she was working on the *Essential Cottage Cookbook*, I knew it would have pride of place in my cottage kitchen. Then, when she called a few months later to say that Penguin Random House Canada was going to publish it, I was beyond impressed. Local authors know how incredibly hard it is to interest a big publishing company in your work. I am so proud of her.

Many years have passed since eleven-year-old Andrea knocked on my cottage door to introduce herself and her little sister. She was so mature and confident, I offered her a cup of tea, thinking she was a young mom. Since then, I've watched Andrea embark on a lifetime of adventurous journeys, career paths and creative projects. Fearless and smart, she combines new learning with time-tested traditions and the result is a fabulous cookbook that will be available in time for your May long weekend bash. The book is filled with recipes that can be prepared in the simplest of cottage kitchens, on the barbecue, and over the campfire. Andrea's love of cottaging goes back to early childhood memories on Lake Kashagawigamog, as she tells about in her introduction.

"In 1955, my grandmother and her three sisters purchased a plot of land in Ingoldsby, Ontario, just outside of Minden in the Haliburton Highlands. They each built a cottage there, to enjoy time together as their families expanded. It was affectionately known as The Hilltop, and my dad would go there with his family as often as they could when he was growing up. And when I was a kid, the tradition continued. Some of my favorite summer memories are at The Hilltop with my cousins, aunts, and uncles. But these cottages were, and are, rustic - I'm talking outhouses and no running water. I remember hauling in rainwater to do dishes and taking an impromptu shower when it rained."

The *Essential Cottage Cookbook* is a treasury of recipes that will make your cottage meals special. Buckett draws on a lifetime of highland summers to share the very best kind of cottage fare. Hearty breakfasts and happy hour treats have been tested in real cottage kitchens (including my own!), where cooks must improvise when friends show up unexpectedly at the dock. Andrea's recipes reflect her philosophy on the simplicity of cottage life.

"Whether you call it a cottage, cabin, chalet, lake house, camp, or trailer, the experience is universal. It's about getting away from the daily grind, taking a breather, and spending time surrounded by nature," she writes.

Her not-so-secret formula for success is simplicity, seasonality and sentimentality, with tips that keep meal preparation real. When cooking with Andrea, the main ingredient is always love and laughter. My own cottage experiences are filled with memories of past generations; grandpas who taught us to paddle, crazy uncles who pulled off ridiculous waterskiing stunts, and aunties who never let a kid win at gin rummy. So my favourite takeaway from her cookbook is this quote:

"Make room at the cottage table for all the benevolent ghosts," Andrea says. "They're right behind you, preparing your favorite cheese tea biscuits, eating, and cleaning up. Shared meals at the cottage are some of the most delicious and satisfying experiences."

Running my eyes down the list of recipes, I can't wait to try Smoked Fish and Asparagus Salad with Pickled Rhubarb Dressing, Wobbly Pop Milkshakes, Ratatouille Crumble Pie, Creamy Horseradish Roots with Roast Beef and… wait for it: Cottage Sink Banana Splits. Oh man, it's going to be a fabulous summer.

Details are on her website: andreabuckett.com

Notice
Tariff of Fees

Notice is hereby provided that the Council of the County of Haliburton will be reviewing and considering amendments to the Tariff of Fees By-law-4279 at the Council Meeting to be held on May 28, 2025. The agenda for the above noted meeting date can be viewed online at http://haliburton.civicweb.net. Meeting to commence at 9:00 a.m.

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Deadline is May 15th, 2025 so apply today!

Soccer success

Hal High took to the field last week to battle out their first soccer game of the season against Brock High School. The girls racked up an impressvie 7-0 win against the visiting team. /TIM YANO staff photographer

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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Time to walk for water

Help a Village Effort's (H.A.V.E) annual Walk for Water event is coming up - to raise awareness of, and funding for, clean water in impoverished villages in India.

This year's walk is Wednesday, May 28, at 7 p.m., starting and ending at Minden Hills United Church - with a stroll on the Minden Riverwalk.

The walk has been held for more than 40 years.

This year's goal is to raise $5,000. On average, this will support the drilling of two wells, education, and ongoing maintenance.

Board chair Michele Coneybeare said, "the annual Walk for Water symbolizes the arduous journey of often five or more kilometres a day that many women and children need to make to get clean drinking water for their families."

She added, "H.A.V.E. believes clean water is a universal right, not a privilege. For more than 40 years, we have worked to provide disadvantaged communities, particularly in India, with access to clean water and sanitation.

"Our mission is to empower communities with the gift of clean water, one village and one well at a time."

Clean potable water greatly reduces the water-borne diseases from which many people suffer and die. Safe water also provides a basic foundation from which other aspects of development can occur.

H.A.V.E. is a registered charity formed in Haliburton County in 1982. It is represented throughout Canada and focuses on providing safe drinking water, sanitation and good hygiene education in rural Indian villages. The organization hires local people in villages to help install the pumps.

Walkers and donors:

If you are interested in walking, contact a H.A.V.E. board member for a pledge sheet. (Michele Coneybeare, Lisa Gervais, Paul Heffer, Darren Mills, Cathy Stevens, Debbie Wales, Nick Kulas (associate member).

Money may be turned in along with your pledge list on the day of the walk. Pledges collected after the walk are to be given to Michele Coneybeare, 705-455-2017 or Paul Heffer, 705-455-3286.

Receipts for income tax purposes will be issued for amounts of $20 and more. Please print your mailing address clearly. Include your email address if you would like to receive your tax receipt by email.

To learn more about H.A.V.E. visit our website: helpavillageeffort.org. or find us on Facebook

Submitted

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Yard Sale **1378 Old Donald Road, Haliburton, May 24th 10-4** with a May 25 rain date Some furniture, tools, folding heavy duty trailer ramps, mitre saw on stand, electrical bits and pieces, wading pool and chairs for kids, bike stuff, garden tools, wooden and aluminum ladders, hydraulic jacks, original paintings and much more!

HUGE Multi-Family Garage Sale in **Hunter Creek Estates 1041 7th Line**. Workshop and garden tools, generator, furniture, stair lift, camping and household. Saturday, **May 17th 8-4** Rain or Shine

Yard Sale - May 17 and 18 - 8 to 2 16 Highland Gate Blvd, Minden. Off Cty Rd 2. Downsizing! LOW prices! Furniture, fabric, decor, books, cd's, movies, Retail display/storage pcs Wedding items, free stuff

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540 COMING EVENTS

Minden & District Horticultural Society Plant Sale,**Saturday, May 17th** 10am -1pm Rain or shine.
63 Bobcaygeon Rd, Minden.
New this year: vendors

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Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents

Job Posting
Summer Respite Worker

Responsibilities:
Respite Worker will give parents/guardian of children/youth an opportunity for "a break and a chance to recharge their batteries" throughout the summer. At the same time:
- Introduces children and youth to new experiences within our community.
- Respite will be offered in the community, at the family's home or at one of our offices.
- Create and implement individual and small group summer respite plans under the direction of the parents, Point in Time workers and Resource Coordinator.
- Programs will reflect the individual needs of the child and families and may include recreation, life skills, fine and gross motor skills, community integration.
- Maintain daily contact notes and records.
- Support the Summer Fun Kits that will be given out to families within the community.

Required:
Valid First Aid & CPR certificate; EA, PSW or ECE Diploma or college/university students with experience working with youth with developmental and behavior challenges; vehicle required.

Employment Period: June 30, 2025 – Aug 26, 2025
Hours/Week: 35 hours
Rate of Pay: $18.00/hour

Please send cover letter and resume to HR@pointintime.ca or fax 705-457-3492 by May 26, 2025.

Point in Time is committed to building an organization that reflects the communities we work with. We encourage applications from members of Black, Indigenous, and racialized communities, LGBTQ+ communities, people with disabilities, and members of other equity seeking groups. Point in Time will provide accommodation during the recruitment process to ensure equal access to applicants with disabilities, upon the request of the applicant.

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth & Parents
PO Box 1306, 69 Eastern Avenue, Haliburton ON K0M 1S0

650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of
Joan Dolores Chambers (nee McIntyre)
Passed away at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, in her 97th year.

Loving mother of Dan (Linda), Tim (Janice), Ginger (Bill Kulas), Frank (Shelly), Bradnee (deceased), (Elisa-deceased) and Jeff (Cathy). Loving grandmother to Jason, Curran, Taylor, Marisa, Madison, Rebecca, Jessica, Tammi, Cassandra, Josh, Nick, Cassie, Billy, Brittney and Ena. Fondly remembered by her many great grandkids, nieces and nephews.

Joan was a camp cook, loved to bake and swim in Twelve Mile Lake. The family would like to express a heartfelt thank you to the wonderful nurses and superb staff at Hyland Crest for their love, care and support for Mom.

As per Joan's wishes, there will be no visitation or funeral service. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to Hyland Crest Activities (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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Planning is key to stable budgets

Long-term planning is the secret to maintaining a stable budget each year, Stanhope Township Councillor Jock Mavor commented when the 1988 budget was passed last Wednesday.

An overall increase of less than 1.6 per cent is what residential tax payers have in store for them, and this was achieved without compromising the needs of any of the departments.

"We've been good stewards of the taxpayers' money, while addressing the needs," said Mavor. He said tax increases have been kept quite stable for the past five years because council has had the foresight to establish reserve funds. This avoids the need for large tax hikes whenever a large expense is encountered.

Councillor Ann Barker also praised this year's budget. "I think we've struck a good budget. We've kept our priorities in line and we haven't changed many (department) budgets." She also noted that the municipality is still operating in the black and will not need to borrow money.

The increase in residential taxes in the township this year, including the education and county budgets, amounts to just 1.58 per cent. The commercial increase is slightly higher at 1.6 per cent.

The mill rate for calculation of 1988 taxes is 1,034.9. To calculate individual taxes, multiply the assessed value of a property by 1.0349.

While maintaining a low increase, council is also continuing to build its reserve funds. Sums amounting to $31,000 are being set aside for future requirements. These include $10,000 for road equipment, $6,000 for working funds, $5,000 for the airport and $10,000 for the fire department.

A request for an addition to the present fire department was the only major cut in department budgets, Administrator Gerald Bain said. The volunteer fire department hopes to expand its facilities with an addition to the present building at an estimated cost of $56,000. However, council intends to hold off on the expansion. And instead of an addition, council favours a new steel-frame building.

Fire protection services to be cut off

Snowdon and Lutterworth Townships will be forced to look elsewhere for fire protection when their contract with Anson, Hindon and Minden Townships expires at the end of the year.

Since both municipalities are refusing to pay a 100 per cent stand by fee increase, Minden Council has decided it will not renew the contracts when they expire. Minden Council voted unanimously to notify the neighbouring municipalities of its intentions, providing more than the 90 days notice required in the contract.

Deputy Reeve Bern Berry, who had earlier recommended the 100 per cent fee hike, introduced the motion to withdraw all protection services. He

(more on page 13)

A smooth layer of hard top was finally laid down on the area of Bobcaygeon Road which has been under construction since last fall. Workers from Royel Paving were putting the final touches to the first layer of the new asphalt on Friday morning.

Landfill site will be closing

Stanhope Township will soon be looking for a new location for a small landfill site to replace the one on Hawk Lake Road.

The .58-hectare Hawk Lake Road site is very close to capacity and the Ministry of the Environment has recommended that steps be taken to close it up by the end of 1989.

Township Administrator Gerald Bain told council last Wednesday that an application has already been submitted for a subsidy to help locate a new site. He estimated that it will cost about $40,000, of which it is hoped the ministry will cover 75 per cent. Bain said he has also asked for application forms for funding to close up the old site.

Stanhope Reeve Harry Davis noted that County Counil is hoping to commission a study for future management of landfill sites in the Highlands. However, that study will not be completed in time to help out in this situation.

A letter from the ministry says, "A review of our records and a recent inspection indicates this site has been filled to at least .58 hectares on the first level and almost to the limit on the second level. For this reason, we recommend the municipality initiate steps to have the landfill site closed by the end of 1989."

Ministry guidelines for closing a site are as follows: Assess the site for problems and implement corrections; publicize the closure and alternative disposal site; initiate rodent extermination measures; grade, compact and cover the site with a minimum of .6 metres of clay type soil; stablize the soil cover, and maintain integrity and continuity of the soil cover.

Bain told council that he will notify the Kushog and Hawk Lake cottage associations of the intentions to close this site.

Since Monday, May 23 is a national holiday, the distribution of next week's edition of The Times will take place on Tuesday, May 24. All advertising and copy deadlines remain the same. We wish you a safe and enjoyable Victoria Day weekend.

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